

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A digital camera, comprising:
 2 a photoelement array for acquiring image data;
 3 a memory for saving said image data;
 4 a processor in communication with said memory;
 5 a display in communication with said processor for exhibiting said image data;
 6 a plurality of navigation buttons;
 7 a plurality of operational buttons; and
 8 program code stored in said memory and executed by said processor, said
 9 program code comprising a menu navigation interface module for
 10 allowing a user to select one of a plurality of menu options in response
 11 to the invocation of one of said navigation buttons, so that the
 12 functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons changes from a first
 13 set of navigation button operating functions to a second set of
 14 navigation button operating functions which correspond to a plurality
 15 of menu functions associated with a selected menu.

1 2. The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said program code further
 2 comprises:
 3 a first code segment for demarcating one of a plurality of menu options
 4 displayed on said display, said demarcation representing a selection of
 5 one of said menu options.

1 3. The digital camera of claim 2, wherein said demarcation is
2 directionally moved among said plurality of menu options using said navigation
3 buttons.

1 4. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein one of said navigation buttons
2 is used to exit from said menu.

1 5. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein said demarcation is bi-
2 directionally moved using a pair of said navigation buttons.

1 6. The digital camera of claim 5, wherein said pair of navigation buttons
2 comprises an up navigation and down navigation button.

1 7. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein said selection of said option is
2 confirmed by the user through invocation of said operational button invoked to
3 provide said menu.

1 8. The digital camera of claim 1, further comprising:
2 means for communicating image data to a remote device.

1 9. A digital camera, comprising:
2 capturing means for acquiring image data;
3 storage means for saving said image data;
4 processing means in communication with said storage means;

5 display means in communication with said processing means for exhibiting
6 said image data;
7 a navigation means;
8 operation activation means; and
9 program code stored in said storage means and executed by said processing
10 means for manipulating said image data, said program code comprising
11 a menu navigation interface module for allowing a user to select one of
12 a plurality of menu options in response to the invocation of said
13 navigation means, so that the functionality of said navigation means
14 changes from a first set of navigation operating functions to a second
15 set of navigation operating functions which correspond to a plurality of
16 menu functions associated with a selected menu.

1 10. The digital camera of claim 9, wherein said menu navigation interface
2 module comprises:
3 a first code segment for demarcating one of said options displayed on said
4 display, said demarcation representing a selection of said option.

1 11. The digital camera of claim 10, further comprising navigation means
2 for moving said demarcation among said menu of options.

1 12. The digital camera of claim 11, wherein said operation activation
2 means is a plurality of operational buttons and said navigation means is a plurality of
3 navigation buttons, wherein one of said navigation buttons is used to exit from said
4 menu of options, status and information dialogs.

1 13. The digital camera of claim 12, wherein said selection of said option is
2 confirmed by the user through invocation of said operational button invoked to
3 provide said menu.

1 14. The digital camera of claim 12, further comprising:
2 a second code segment for providing an icon representative of said navigation
3 buttons on said display.

1 15. The digital camera of claim 14, wherein said icon comprises:
2 a pair of opposing arrows with each arrow uniquely representing a logical
3 scroll direction.

1 16. The digital camera of claim 15, wherein said icon further comprises:
2 a third arrow representing said navigation button used to exit from said menu.

1 17. The digital camera of claim 9, further comprising:
2 means for communicating image data to a remote device.

1 18. An interface method for invoking the operation of a digital camera
2 having a built-in display, comprising the steps of:
3 selecting one of a plurality of menus in response to an invocation of one of a
4 plurality of functional buttons; and
5 changing the functionality of a plurality of navigation buttons in response to
6 selecting one of said menus from a first set of navigation button

7 operating functions to a second set of navigation button operating
 8 functions, such that said second set of navigation button operating
 9 functions correspond to a plurality of menu functions associated with
 10 said selected menu.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
 2 displaying an icon representative of at least one of said plurality of navigation
 3 buttons on a display.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of selecting one of a plurality
 2 of menus is made in response to an invocation of one of a plurality of operational
 3 buttons.

1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of exiting said
 2 menu in response to an invocation of one of said plurality of navigation buttons and
 3 the step of changing the functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons to said
 4 first set of navigation button operating functions is made in response to the step of
 5 exiting.

1 22. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
 2 communicating image data to a remote device.

1 23. A computer readable medium having a program for manipulating
2 image data acquired by a digital camera, said program code comprising:
3 logic configured for displaying a plurality of menus, each one of said plurality
4 of menus comprising at least one option displayed on a display, said
5 options corresponding to operations capable of execution by said
6 digital camera;
7 logic configured for demarcating one of said options, said demarcation
8 representing a user selection of said option;
9 logic configured for associating a first set of operating button operating
10 functions with a plurality of operating buttons, such that said first set of
11 operating button operating functions corresponds to a first menu
12 selected from said plurality of menus;
13 logic configured for associating a second set of operating button operating
14 functions with said plurality of operating buttons, such that said second
15 set of operating button operating functions corresponds to a second
16 menu selected from said plurality of menus; and
17 logic configured for processing a user selection of one of said options.

1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said plurality of
2 operating buttons are a plurality of navigation buttons.

1 25. The computer readable medium of claim 24, further comprising:
2 logic configured for moving said demarcation in response to a logical scroll
3 direction entered by the user through one of a plurality of navigation
4 buttons.

1 26. The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising:
2 logic configured for exiting said menu of options in response to an invocation
3 of one of said plurality of navigation buttons by the user.

1 27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising:
2 logic configured for providing an icon representative of said navigation
3 buttons on said display.

1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 23, further comprising:
2 logic configured for communicating image data to a remote device.

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